

4/30/79
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Dear Mrs. Bickley,

Your letter of the 27th is a surprise and it is a pleasant surprise to know that Jerry Ray has a lady friend - of whom he has said not a word to me.

He did tell me that he was going to look for a job in Tenn. to be near Jimmy.

If he told you I enjoy his so-called singing he told what other than I have told him with some emphasis.

First

Of course you and Jerry would be welcome here. ~~Next~~ time he was here it was with a man I tried to tell him was an informant.

That did not discourage an invitation.

That I stay busy makes no difference. I'll always be that way.

And life would be very dull without some opportunity for a little good, clean fun.

We have no plans for being away so almost any time will be fine.

You report talents I had not observed in Jerry.

Just goes to show, doesn't it?

But I'm very glad if he is helpful to anyone.

Especially a widow.

But that is the way things should be and all credit to Jerry for it.

Please excuse my haste. My wife has been away and it is time to meet her at the bus station.

And of course I wanted to assure you of welcome by return mail.

Sincerely,

bcc: This is hardly credible. Sounds

like something Jerry has cooked up.

He has had a thing lately about me and his "singing."

He has gone into it at length with me and has even

phoned me about it. Oliver Patterson says Jerry

also phoned him about it and asked him what I'd said

about his singing. Unlike Jerry to spend that kind of money

on l.d. phone calls and unlike his story of his situation for

him to be able to afford them....He also has had a thing about me calling him Hoss, which

I've refused to do and "she" does. Can't understand why she has to use a so-called friend's

address. Stoner? Office help? Not likely with this kind of letter, which also is not

Jerry's typing. ...Nobody in her right mind would help him get any of "his" songs recorded.

...I don't think there is any possibility of any trip here and this is some kind of prank

Jerry thinks is smart.

Harold Weisberg